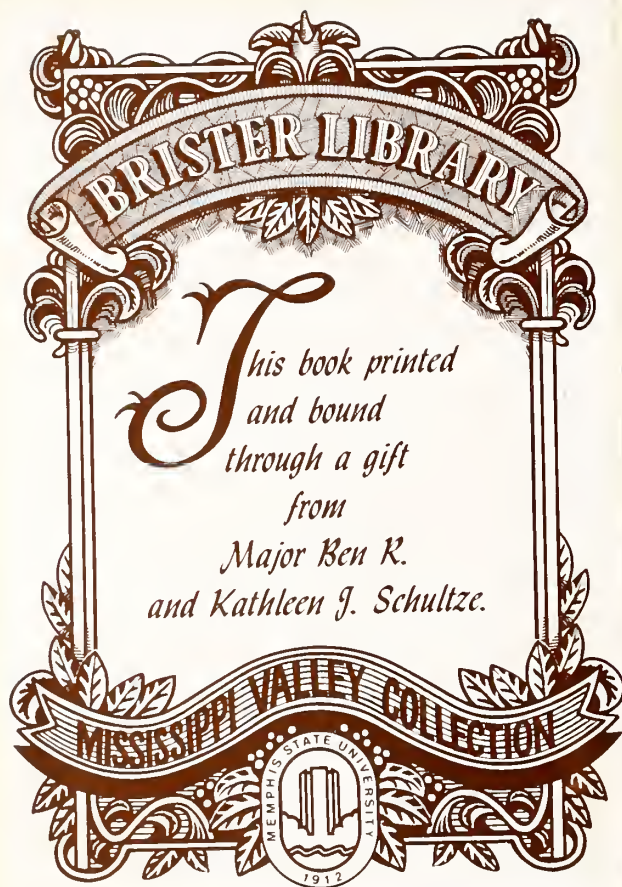


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THE BELLE McWILLIAMS BIOGRAPHY  
INTERVIEW WITH  
LOUISE SCHULTZE FELLOWS

BY - CHARLES W. CRAWFORD  
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE  
MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY





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INTERVIEW WITH LOUISE SCHULTZE FELLOWS

MAY 15, 1986

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BY CHARLES W. CRAWFORD

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ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE

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DR. CRAWFORD: Mrs. Fellows, can you tell me something about your childhood--growing up--when you first came in contact with Belle McWilliams. What are your first memories of her? How old were you then?

MRS. FELLOWS: I guess my first memories were when my mother died.

DR. CRAWFORD: How old were you then?

MRS. FELLOWS: I was seven years old at that time. My aunt and I were living in the same home and she was taking care of me. Then my mother passed on and she just kept on taking care of me.

DR. CRAWFORD: Had your mother been ill for awhile?

MRS. FELLOWS: My mother had been ill for two years.

DR. CRAWFORD: So you were familiar with your Aunt Belle McWilliams being around.

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you have to move to another place or did you stay in your same home?

MRS. FELLOWS: No, we stayed in the same place. We didn't have to move. However, I've been told that my aunt was living with us because she was in teaching school and my parents were living close to the school. And my aunt had been living with us--my parents rather--

Page 101

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions.

2. It then goes on to describe the various methods used to collect and analyze data.

3. The next section details the results of the study, showing a clear trend towards increased efficiency.

4. Finally, the document concludes with a series of recommendations for future research and implementation.

5. The overall findings suggest that the proposed system is a viable solution for improving organizational performance.

6. The document also includes a list of references and a detailed appendix of supporting data.

7. The author expresses gratitude to the participants and funding agencies for their support.

before I was born.

DR. CRAWFORD: What street did your parents live on?

MRS. FELLOWS: I think I was born on Azalia and they lived on Beechwood when I was five years old. Then we moved to East McLemore.

DR. CRAWFORD: What school was Miss McWilliams teaching in then?

MRS. FELLOWS: She taught at Cummings School, and I attended Cummings School. She had been teaching there a long time before I attended it. And of course she taught there a long time after I attended.

DR. CRAWFORD: She certainly did. Now, were you in her class when you started school?

MRS. FELLOWS: No. She taught the eighth grade in history. I only went there the first five years and then we moved from East McLemore to Kendale. And when we did I was thrown in the Rozelle District and I went to Rozelle the sixth, seventh and eighth grade.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, did you ever have a class under Miss McWilliams?

MRS. FELLOWS: [I] never had a class under her. My cousin did--Robert Curry McWilliams. But I never had a class under her.

DR. CRAWFORD: What was she like as a parent? I know she took over in the place of a mother for you then.

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, I would say she tried to do her best. At the time I thought everything she did was all right--adequate. I wasn't treated any different from the rest of the kids in the neighborhood. She tried to fill in. It wasn't until I got older that I could see that there were gaps in my education. But it wasn't for trying. You didn't have books on how to raise your orphan niece those days.

So my aunt really did everything. She saw that we were clothed; she saw that we were taught our manners--which we were taught. You know that it





impolite to keep your elbows on the table or to talk with your mouth full. We were taught correctly--just table manners. I remember eight or nine years old we had to have table manners.

We had a record player and she wanted me to get rhythm. I remember bouncing a ball to the beat of a record.

DR. CRAWFORD: She was teaching you something even then.

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh yes!

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you remember what year that was?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, fourteen and eight. That would be 1914 and eight more years. That would be '22.

DR. CRAWFORD: That would be '22. There weren't a lot of record players around then.

MRS. FELLOWS: No, we had a little record player and the pieces were all classical pieces. We didn't have any other type of music.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did she try to teach you about music too?

MRS. FELLOWS: No, not really. But since I was only exposed to classical music, I thought that that was the thing. And I think it helped me to appreciate it more. And then she saw that I had piano lessons when I was about twelve years old. All girls, I guess, go through that. I had piano lessons awhile.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you enjoy that?

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes and no. I enjoyed it when I learned a piece and people asked me to come and play for them because they thought that was fine. My aunt didn't push me. There were a lot of things I think she could have pushed me into, but she didn't. Looking back on it, I see other mothers where they pushed their children. My aunt couldn't go to the PTA meetings and meet all the teachers like the other mothers could because she was teaching and PTA meetings were held always in the afternoon.

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DR. CRAWFORD: During teaching hours.

MRS. FELLOWS: During teaching hours. So I missed a little attention that way.

DR. CRAWFORD: You didn't miss very much else, did you when you were growing up?

MRS. FELLOWS: I can't really say that I did miss anything. I really can't say I missed a thing. When I look back over it I had everything the other kids had. The other kids didn't have bicycles but neither did I. They didn't go to picture shows a lot except on Saturday and we all went. My aunt saw that we got to go to the picture show--the ten or fifteen cents was always there for us to go to the show.

DR. CRAWFORD: Where was the theatre then that you went to?

MRS. FELLOWS: The theatre was way over on Lamar. We must have walked, I'd say, three-fourths a mile or two to that--if I can remember correctly.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, the city was safe then for children to be out, wasn't it?

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh yes. No problems at all. I'd meet maybe some of the others in the neighborhood or my brother would go with me and we were safe.

DR. CRAWFORD: How much difference was there in yours and Ben's ages?

MRS. FELLOWS: Five years. I was five years older than Ben. When I was a teenager and wanted to visit my girlfriends in the neighborhood after dark, my aunt always sent my brother to escort me home because it was dark. And he came on the bicycle so I got a ride on his handlebars coming home. I guess she thought that I would be safe with him. But no, we didn't run around the night by ourselves. We had to have somebody even if it was say a twelve- or thirteen year old boy. But it was





better than a girl walking alone.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well that was a fairly quiet and safe time in the city.

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: It has changed a lot since then.

MRS. FELLOWS: No problems in the city that I knew of. We were brought up with Negroes. They walked down Willett close to us. We spoke to them. That's another thing. We were always told to be polite to them.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was that usual in Memphis at that time?

MRS. FELLOWS: Was it usual to be polite to them? I don't really know because I don't know how other people did. We had a maid come; we had an old Negro man that came. We had to address him.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was sort of customary then, wasn't it Mrs. Fellows?

MRS. FELLOWS: That was customary. We always treated them politely and of course they treated us politely too. I meant there wasn't any animosity at any time among the Negroes and us.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well it seems to me you had an unusual experience there. What about your homework? Did you get help with that?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well yes. I guess I got help with it. Not overly much. It wasn't ever done for me. I had to do it. And I am not always sure she corrected everything because I know it wasn't always perfect. So I assumed she helped me with it without doing it for me.

DR. CRAWFORD: She was teaching history then, wasn't she?

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: And if her situation was anything like mine, I could help my children with history, but there were some things that I didn't try to help them very much with because you can't know all of the subjects.



MRS. FELLOWS: Well, she wouldn't help me with, of course, chemistry or physics or anything like that or higher math that I took in high school. But in grade school she could help me. One summer she decided that I should study all summer. So I studied all summer long. She taught me--it was the third grade. That's when they had like 3-1 and 3-2. So the next fall I took a test and went one-half up--one leg up further. And it was through her efforts to teach me all summer long. We had school. I didn't object to it.

DR. CRAWFORD: You had sort of a private tutor then, didn't you?

MRS. FELLOWS: All summer long, I did.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you mind all of that studying?

MRS. FELLOWS: No, I didn't mind. I remember when I was five years, my aunt would go to Arkansas at the home of her sister and her mother, and my Aunt Belle would teach the country school for six weeks or two months there.

DR. CRAWFORD: During the summer?

MRS. FELLOWS: During the summer. And she would let me go to the country school with her when I was five years old. I wasn't in any grade, but I went there and played around. Sometimes if my uncle would come by the school early in the afternoon, I could go home with him--ride on the wagon with horses pulling it. So she taught school more than nine months a year.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, I guess that was sort of a treat riding on the wagon and being out in the country, wasn't it?

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes, it was.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know, Mrs. Fellows, how long the regular school term was then--eight months or nine months in the city?

MRS. FELLOWS: No, I don't. But my brother has a contract which my





aunt filled out and it was for nine months at that time.

DR. CRAWFORD: I think that was fairly new--the nine-month school year. It had been shorter.

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes, because this was up in the thirties some time.

And back when I was going to school when she was teaching in the country during the summer that was back in the early twenties. So I dare say that the length of the school might have been eight months.

DR. CRAWFORD: I think the summer school--I think in the country--terms were shorter and sometimes they would have it in the summer because of work the children would need to do on the farm at other times.

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes. They were usually through with the summer school when it was time for them to pick cotton. And that was about the first of August.

DR. CRAWFORD: And because they would plant the cotton as early as they could and the crop would be laid by and that's when school would be when there was not much to do. And then when it was ready to pick they'd be out of school. I remember my school did not ever do that but I knew a lot of country schools that did. And they would start in again late in the fall--maybe October or November--when the cotton usually would be picked. But by that time she was back in Memphis teaching her regular term. How did she feel about her subject? Did you learn anything special in history?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well no, not really. I'm trying to think of something I learned specially. I do remember though at the dinner table we would discuss events and we would discuss events in history. We at that time knew all the names of all the members of the cabinet--the



United States Cabinet--which I dare-say nobody knows all of them now--one or two that get their names in papers. Those were the items that we discussed at the dinner table. I formed a love of history from listening to her talk about it. Any subject she came up [with] she knew more than the words just in the book. And so I would listen to her stories that would come up. And so I've always loved history.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, Ben got the same effect, I think, evidently you both did there.

MRS. FELLOWS: Both of us did. When I graduated from college I came in with a history minor.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did you plan to do? Did you plan to teach?

MRS. FELLOWS: I planned since the time that I was seven years old to be a teacher. I guess I heard my aunt--I maybe loved her quite a bit--but I remember as a seven or eight year old child going to the Board of Education with my aunt and the superintendent of schools gave me a little book. And I remember saying that when I grew up that I was going to be a teacher. That was my first knowledge that I was going to be a teacher and as I recall I was seven years old at the time.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you got an early start toward what you wanted to do.

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, on the other hand, it wasn't much for a girl. In fact, when I graduated from high school there wasn't much for a girl to do.

DR. CRAWFORD: You know that is true. Teaching and nursing--maybe a few other things. . .

MRS. FELLOWS: That was my choice to be a teacher or a nurse and I could only think of the bad things on nursing. And that





was out for me. And my aunt said, "Well you could be like Mrs. So and So down the street--stand on your feet all day long--clerking in some store". She didn't tell me you stood on your feet all day long teaching. (laughter) I found later on that that was to be true.

DR. CRAWFORD: There was a lot of that,yes. I never sit down when I'm teaching--at least normally.

MRS. FELLOWS: No. I think I can do a better job standing up.

DR. CRAWFORD: I feel that way. That's the only reason I do it.

MRS. FELLOWS: Very seldom can I sit down. Now if I was up on a podium--up higher--I could maybe sit down and talk to them. But when you're sitting down talking it seems like you're more relaxed. You aren't really conducting a class or anything. If it was just a discussion group and were gathered around--a few of us-- we could sit down. That's all right. Well another thing I couldn't very well teach without either a chalkboard or a map or a graph of some kind. And you have to be up standing up to use all that.

DR. CRAWFORD: I never sit down for a class unless it is a graduate class. And I am so in the habit of walking to the board or to the map or making my own maps that even if I do sit down I find that I have to get right back up again.

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh, I've made a million maps on the board. I don't think they would pass much to go in any book. But they got the idea across to the children.

DR. CRAWFORD: I think if they should locate things in place as well as time. Now was this what she'd always do, you know, discuss current events at the dinner table? Or was she trying to teach you?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, I couldn't answer that. She just was so interested in all the politics, you might say, and government. Of



course she taught what they call Civics also, you know, that it just spilled over. I don't think my grandmother her mother, was interested in it but maybe she was trying to teach us. Maybe this was, but I never had an idea she was teaching us because that time I thought a teacher stood up at the front of the room and taught you. And I didn't realize that you could teach by sitting down at the dinner table and discussing something. So she undoubtedly was trying to teach me. That was her gift to us, you know.

DR. CRAWFORD: She had a lot of things to teach you besides subject matter.

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh yes. She had a lot of things to teach me.

DR. CRAWFORD: Ben had mentioned some of them about honesty and respect, hard work, saving money and so forth.

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh yes, we learned all of that. Oh yes, honesty.

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness." We knew that. And we all worked. Duty before pleasure. I've given up a many of a good time because I thought, well I had to do this or I should do this, that's what I had planned. But, oh no, it carried over to my whole adult life. The things that I learned then they carried over completely.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, I think it carried over in your brother Ben's life certainly.

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh I'm sure it did. Because he was with her a little longer than I--well in a way.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you went away to school sooner, didn't you?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, I didn't go away to school. I lived at home when I went to school, you know.

DR. CRAWFORD: When you started at Memphis State what year was it, Mrs. Fellows?

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MRS. FELLOWS: [I] started in '32. [I] graduated in '36.

DR. CRAWFORD: How did you get to school then?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, the first year we rode a streetcar. We rode down to Crosstown and caught the Crosstown streetcar.

And then took another one that took us way out Southern. And that was about 45 minute drive. And I did that and then my aunt had the --I thought a--happy idea of buying an automobile. So she bought a second-hand automobile--a Plymouth--with the understanding that I was taught how to drive.

DR. CRAWFORD: How old were you then?

MRS. FELLOWS: Eighteen.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did they require driver's license then?

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh yes, you had to get driver's license. So after I had been driving [practicing] maybe a month or more, I couldn't go out and drive by myself until after I got my license. So I'd hurry home from school and my neighbor would go with me when I practiced driving. And I had some college friends that came. Well, they had taken me to school back and forth awhile so they'd help me. So one day there was about three or four of us in the car and I drove downtown to the police station where you got your driver's license and went in and told them I wanted to get a driver's license. I paid some money and they gave me a driver's license.

DR. CRAWFORD: So they did not have a test then, did they?

MRS. FELLOWS: No test and I've had it [driver's license] every since then. I've taken several tests though since then.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you have been in different states.

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh yes. I was in Indiana and had to take a driver's test there. And I left home one time driving to Memphis





and I got part way there and I realized that my driver's license had expired and so I stopped in Denver and took a driver's test. I happened to know a friend there that was in charge of the motor vehicles. I took the driver's test, [I] took the written test and I got the driver's license. And then let's see what's the other one I've taken. Well I guess those are the only two that I have taken.

DR. CRAWFORD: But at the time you had just learned on the streets.

MRS. FELLOWS: Mostly. Friends teaching me and everything.

DR. CRAWFORD: Were the streets all paved when you drove on them?

MRS. FELLOWS: Always.

DR. CRAWFORD: What about getting out to Memphis State then, was the train running out to the Normal station?

MRS. FELLOWS: I really can't answer that. I don't believe it was. But then I'm almost sure it wasn't.

DR. CRAWFORD: They were depending on the streetcars.

MRS. FELLOWS: The streetcar was what everybody was coming out on. All of my friends that I knew came out because it came out to the end there and turned around.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, I have seen where the old depot was by the railroad between Walker and the track at the south side of Memphis State. But I did not know when they stopped the service there. That was pretty well out of the country then, wasn't it?

MRS. FELLOWS: No. There were houses all along the way. You never went through any vast area where there were no houses. But it wasn't crowded like it is today. You know you would have a house and maybe you go somewhere and there'd be some more. I never thought of it as not being vast. Some of the houses were as far apart as the buildings were on campus at that time. Really, they weren't far apart. I thought



They were. But when I go back now to look at them they're right over there. There's that next building.

DR. CRAWFORD: You had the old Administration Building?

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: And the President's home.

MRS. FELLOWS: And Mynders Hall.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was the girls' dormitory?

MRS. FELLOWS: The girls' dormitory and then we had the boys' dormitory. And we had a fieldhouse--I guess you can call it --the gym.

DR. CRAWFORD: Where was that located? Was that across the parking lot east of the Administration Building?

MRS. FELLOWS: I think so, just south of the boys' dormitory--somewhere in that area. And then they had training school and that was just a little farther on.

DR. CRAWFORD: Farther east over toward the waterworks. That was probably the same building it is now, I suppose.

MRS. FELLOWS: Probably. Oh, and then of course, they had the dining room behind the school and then they had a boiler room or something like that.

DR. CRAWFORD: It was behind that. And the dining room was just north, I believe, of the Administration Building.

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes. And of course, the Administration Building had classes in it. That's where all of our classes were held.

DR. CRAWFORD: Every class on campus?

MRS. FELLOWS: I believe so at that time.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you know I suppose it was because when I went there in '62, Mrs. Fellows, they were doing the same thing.



History and English and music and economics and I don't know what all else--almost all the Arts and Sciences classes--were in the Administration Building. As a matter of fact, I think maybe the first classroom building they built away from there was the Business School building.

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh, Business School.

DR. CRAWFORD: Which is now Mitchell Hall, but at first it was the Business School. They had to have a lot of classrooms--I guess second and third and maybe some on the fourth floor.

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, there were a lot of classrooms down there. And they were everyone used too. Of course, we only had a little over a thousand students.

DR. CRAWFORD: It was getting filled up then and they needed to build those others. We now have a separate history building, English building, biology building, math building and so many others.

MRS. FELLOWS: They have a building for each subject seems like, don't they?

DR. CRAWFORD: They really do. Some of the smaller subjects--political science, anthropology and philosophy--I think are in one building.

MRS. FELLOWS: Where is the language arts--any of those? Where is your English taught?

DR. CRAWFORD: Now English classes are taught in Patterson Hall at the corner of Southern and Patterson at the extreme southwest corner of the campus--sort of in front of where the old president's home used to be.

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh, just about there where Brister's home was.

DR. CRAWFORD: I remember that because that was there when I got there. They tore it down and now, as you know, he has a home



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1893	Jan 1	Balance		100.00	
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	Sep 1	Interest		5.00	
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	Nov 1	Interest		5.00	
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1894	Jan 1	Balance		100.00	
	Feb 1	Interest		5.00	
	Mar 1	Interest		5.00	
	Apr 1	Interest		5.00	
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	Oct 1	Interest		5.00	
	Nov 1	Interest		5.00	
	Dec 1	Interest		5.00	
1895	Jan 1	Balance		100.00	
	Feb 1	Interest		5.00	
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over on Grandview.

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes. We were there.

DR. CRAWFORD: Let's see, was Nellie Angel Smith the Dean of Women then?

MRS. FELLOWS: Nellie Angel Smith was the Dean of Women at that time and I remember my--I think its English teacher Mrs. Rawls. She became the Dean of Women afterwards.

DR. CRAWFORD: Flora Rawls.

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes. I had her. Oh, I'll take that back. She was the sponsor of our sorority.

DR. CRAWFORD: Were there many sororities then?

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh, about three or four and the same number of fraternities. They weren't national of course, but we weren't allowed to have national ones. Because at that time it was a teachers' college and all. [The] first Tennessee State Teachers' College.

DR. CRAWFORD: And before that it had been West Tennessee State Normal College.

MRS. FELLOWS: Normal College. My aunt went to the Normal College back in 1911, 1912 [and] 1913.

DR. CRAWFORD: Belle McWilliams?

MRS. FELLOWS: Belle McWilliams went there to the Normal College.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you know she was among the first students at Memphis State then.

MRS. FELLOWS: That's right. She helped one of the early professors write a book. And it had to be a history book. I don't remember the man's name. I would like to know so I can get hold of the book to read it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you ever hear her mention the man?



MRS. FELLOWS: She gave me his name. I've just forgotten it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Would it have been Dr. Scates or someone like him?

MRS. FELLOWS: Might have been Dr. Scates because that is a very familiar name. He wanted to put her name in the book and she said, "Oh, no. I didn't do enough. Don't put my name in." So I know that. It might be Dr. Scates because that sounds familiar.

DR. CRAWFORD: She was there a long time about at that time too.

And he did write a textbook because I believe I have a copy of it. He did not mention her as having helped in the book?

MRS. FELLOWS: No, because she asked him not to. He wanted to put her name in some place and [say] "Belle McWilliams was a great help to me", or something like that. And she said, "No, don't do it."

DR. CRAWFORD: Now his book, the one that I have at least, is a Tennessee History textbook. I looked through all of the old ones when I wrote my new one a couple of years ago. I went back to see what they had put in all the old ones and I remember the Scates' book. I do indeed have a copy of it.

MRS. FELLOWS: That could well be the book.

DR. CRAWFORD: I don't know who else would have been writing one back then. Do you remember who was the president of the college then?

MRS. FELLOWS: No, I have no idea.

DR. CRAWFORD: Dr. Brister was somewhere along there but I'm not sure.

MRS. FELLOWS: Do you mean when I went to school or when she did?

DR. CRAWFORD: When you went to school.

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh when I went to school I think it was Brister



because this was Brister's home and he was the president. These two ideas kind of go in my mind.

DR. CRAWFORD: I know that you had to commute to get over there. Did you take part in any extracurricular activities of any kind?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well yes. I played tennis. I remember that because I got up early on Saturday mornings and played tennis.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was that for fun or was that one of your classes?

MRS. FELLOWS: No, that wasn't a class. That was just for fun. No. Outside of the sorority I don't think I had any

extracurricular activities. I would have been on the basketball team.

And the first year that I went out there I got on and was playing and all like that. And my aunt found out that I was going to go out of town and stay all night and she wouldn't let me go.

DR. CRAWFORD: She was sort of old-fashioned about some things.

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes. She didn't think girls should run around out and stay all night some place. But my good friend got on Tilly Kelpner. She got on the team but she only went there two years. But while she was there she was on the team.

DR. CRAWFORD: You went all the way through at one time in four years, didn't you?

MRS. FELLOWS: All the way through in four years.

DR. CRAWFORD: And all the time Belle McWilliams was teaching.

MRS. FELLOWS: She was teaching and taking care of her widowed mother all the time. And later on after I left home and my grandmother became incapacitated, she had to stay in bed. My aunt had to take care of her every morning--clean, feed her, go to school, come back



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and do it all over again. That was pretty hard. By that time she was sixty years old, you know, and that was hard for her to do that.

DR. CRAWFORD: She worked very hard, didn't she?

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes, she did. She was always doing for others-- always helping out her family. She had a sister she helped out and other nieces, you know. We weren't the only ones she helped.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did she teach you and Ben about work?

MRS. FELLOWS: (Laughter) Hard work was what. Nobody got anything. You worked for everything you got. That was it. She didn't live long enough to know that they get so many things free now. We didn't have a Roosevelt give-away program. It had just begun. Well, she lived up to '63. But it wasn't as deep in as it is now.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you remember the Depression that came after '29?

MRS. FELLOWS: Slightly.

DR. CRAWFORD: It evidently did not interrupt her teaching because the schools, I think, all remained open.

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes, the schools continued. Oh, she took a cut in salary. But the schools continued and I don't know that we gave up anything personally in our home because I did have an uncle there. He did bring in an income--her brother. The Depression, I might say, just really passed me by because when you're twelve or fourteen years old, or sixteen you're just going along with the group there and unless it pinched you particularly. School teachers were still being hired. My uncle was in the railroad and none of us were laid off. They weren't laid off from work. So you just didn't feel the pinch. I know there was a pinch because they both got less money.

DR. CRAWFORD: They both kept working?



MRS. FELLOWS: But, they both kept working and that was the salvation. I don't know what they would have done if either of them was laid off.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, raising children is a good deal of work anyway. And it was fortunate they could keep jobs. You know a lot of things were closing but the railroads went on and so did the schools.

MRS. FELLOWS: That's where she was very lucky. They chose professions that could go on during the Depression.

DR. CRAWFORD: And they did have salary cuts. And there was one time-- I don't know whether it affected Memphis or not--I believe it was '32 or '33 when they didn't pay the teachers for awhile. The state lost its money. I think that was late in '32 and for awhile they just didn't have money. I don't know whether they made it all up or not.

MRS. FELLOWS: I don't know. The family finances were not discussed in front of us. I didn't know what they were making. I didn't know how the money was spent. It's just that those things weren't discussed in front of us. Children today know everything about their parents--what they make, where they go with the money and everything. But in those days we didn't know it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, children were a lot more respectful then and they had specific roles to be in--expected to do your chores and your homework, to be quiet and not to correct elders, to listen when they talked to you. So you learned all of that, I suppose.

MRS. FELLOWS: To be seen and not heard.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes. (Laughter)

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes, we were taught every one of those old things.

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There was not one that skipped us as far as I know. I was not taught to cook though.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did she cook?

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh no. Grandmother cooked. See that was her mother.

Grandmother cooked until she got to be ninety years old. And Grandmother didn't want anybody in her kitchen messing it up. So I was never encouraged to cook or do anything.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well you had to learn that later, didn't you?

MRS. FELLOWS: I learned that later but it's not so hard. You just open a book up and follow the directions and anybody it seems to me that can read and understand it, can cook.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you had learned to read and follow directions.

MRS. FELLOWS: You might not cook gourmet food but you can cook good substantial foods. Of course at that time they didn't have the varieties of recipes that they do now. You just have the "hum drum" things and that's it. That's what people were eating and they got along just fine--meat and potatoes.

DR. CRAWFORD: There are a lot of new recipes and foods from different countries, you know, that are available now that people never thought of then.

MRS. FELLOWS: No, never thought of.

DR. CRAWFORD: Were they using buses then--did any of the children ride buses to get in?

MRS. FELLOWS: No buses--street cars are all I knew at that time right in. Well I take that back. I guess a trolley is a streetcar though. That's a streetcar. It wasn't a bus yet with a trolley on it.





DR. CRAWFORD: That was electrically operated with a wire at the top.

MRS. FELLOWS: At the top. They do have buses that run that way, you know, but it was before that. No, it was strictly the streetcars there when I was going to school with the trollies on them.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you ever live on campus or the dormitory or any thing?

MRS. FELLOWS: I lived there one winter. My aunt thought [that] to get a well-rounded college education one should live on the campus. So winter was an ideal time to have me live there. So I lived there one winter and I did enjoy it. Well I guess Tilly and I--we were roommates--became very good friends and of course I know her today. She's the only one that I really can say--well you know of my college friends I do know a few others--but I meant I kind of kept up a little bit with her. She was at our reunion by the way. And I stayed there and it was a lot of fun. We really had a lot of fun. There were a lot of things that you could get into.

DR. CRAWFORD: Miss McWilliams thought that was something you needed to do--part of your education?

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes. That's what she thought.

DR. CRAWFORD: I would agree with her. You learned independence and taking care of yourself and managing your own money and making friends and maybe making some mistakes.

MRS. FELLOWS: I think I took care of my clothes there. Well I didn't have to wash my clothes but I had to iron them. I guess I must have been sixteen years old and we had a negro woman that came in and did [the] washing and ironing and things like that. And I complained the way she was ironing my dress. It had pleats in it and had lines for her to follow and she didn't follow the lines. And I complained and I was told,



"If you don't like it, you do it yourself." From then on--I must have been sixteen [because] I was in the middle of high school--I had to do all of my own ironing. But washing of course was included in the family wash and I didn't have to do that.

DR. CRAWFORD: You had a very interesting experience then.

MRS. FELLOWS: I think so. I agreed with my aunt that everybody should go off to college and not just live at home and go back and forth during the day.

DR. CRAWFORD: What things did you do?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, we had things at night at the college that I could go to. Living where I did I couldn't go to it because it was too far away. I had no means of getting out there and I of course, couldn't go driving by myself at dark. I didn't drive around at dark. So I did go to things out there. That's when I got up early in the morning and played tennis because I was there [on campus] you see. And otherwise I couldn't have gotten there, I don't know, seven o'clock or six o'clock. Some early time on Saturday morning I remember playing tennis all the time then. So there were things [that] you could do there that you couldn't otherwise. And for dating we had a huge room and a teacher always sat in it and you could talk to your boyfriend. That was dating.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well boys and girls still got together then, didn't they? (laughter)

MRS. FELLOWS: Yes, but that was fun though.

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes, met one another and got married just like they always have. Did you meet your husband there or later?

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh, no. I met my husband much later. I met my husband in '44 up in Hanford, Washington at that time.

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DR. CRAWFORD: What were you doing there then?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well I was up there working. I was working for the Commissary Company and they were feeding all the people that worked for the government there to help produce a chemical which they used in making the atom bomb.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now Hanford, Washington was one of the centers?

MRS. FELLOWS: That was one of the centers. We did a third of it up there. Of course I didn't work directly on it because I was working with the Commissary in the office there. And my husband was working in the Commissary in the office also. And I met him there and about a year later we were married.

DR. CRAWFORD: Where was his home?

MRS. FELLOWS: His home was in Kentucky.

DR. CRAWFORD: You both ended up pretty far from home living up there.

MRS. FELLOWS: We sure did. We both ended up pretty far from home.

DR. CRAWFORD: How often did you see Miss McWilliams after you moved?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, not very often because we were of course tied up with our work. My husband couldn't get off but two weeks during the year and that was a struggle to drive all the way down there and back. She came up to visit us in '48 and again in '52. I brought her up in '52. I drove home and then I drove back. So I brought her up in '52 and she rode a train in '48. And then I saw her I think in '56. My brother was going to go overseas and he thought we should all spend Christmas together. So my husband and I flew down there in '56 and we had Christmas together. And then I saw her in '60 and I saw her in '62. So it's one, two, three, four, five times [that I saw her] after I left when I was twenty-one--five times.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN BURNET

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE FIRST

FROM THE

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1642

THE SECOND

VOLUME

OF

THE HISTORY

OF

THE REIGN

OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

1642

DR. CRAWFORD: Was that the year that you graduated from Memphis State?

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh no. I graduated in '36.

DR. CRAWFORD: You had a minor in history, didn't you?

MRS. FELLOWS: I had a minor in history.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did you major in?

MRS. FELLOWS: You know I take that back. I think I had a major in history and a minor in English and I majored in education. And I had a minor in physical education.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, where did that fit into your teaching. How soon did you start teaching after you graduated--a little later than you thought?

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh no. I didn't start teaching until ten years after I graduated. Well when I was in the training school I took the fourth grade and the seventh grade. Those were the two grades that I took to take my teacher's training in. So when I had a chance to teach in Richland they offered me the third grade and I thought, well if you could teach the fourth you sure should be able to teach the third. But there were some discrepancies. They didn't tell me that the kids wrote differently than I did. I'd go in there and the kids were writing differently.

DR. CRAWFORD: How do you mean differently?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, I was using cursive and they were using manuscript. [It] makes a little difference.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, were they taught that? They must have been.

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh yes. They were taught manuscript and in the middle of the third grade they said, "Now you teach all of the children how to write cursive." Of course, no books were given to you. You just dreamed up a way of teaching them and I did. And they taught them





and they learned. And I taught the third grade five years and then I moved to the seventh grade. I taught a homeroom situation--I had a bunch of kids in the morning and another bunch in the afternoon. The homeroom was language arts and social studies. And I did that for about twenty years, I guess. Then I moved to another school and I taught social studies again--they don't call it history anymore--and I taught American history at that time which I liked very much.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, I can understand [because] that's a favorite subject of mine.

MRS. FELLOWS: Yeah, I got back to what I really wanted to teach to begin with. I finally got back to it and taught it the last four years of my teaching.

DR. CRAWFORD: It took awhile to get worked into that.

MRS. FELLOWS: It sure did.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, how did your education here prepare you for teaching in Washington?

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, I must have had a lot. I must have known a lot more than I thought I knew because I was accepted up there--without the education I wouldn't have been accepted. I'd even got other jobs before because I had a degree, you know, working for the government and so forth before I got up to Washington. And with that degree under my belt it opened all kinds of doors for me. Almost anything I wanted I could have gotten. And I was working at the time and I quit my job to go back and teach. So I had a good job with General Electric. I had to take a cut to teach. But I thought that was the thing to do. I'd always heard that when you had graduated from the teacher's college you were supposed to teach. That was the idea. They taught you and you were supposed to go out and teach and you were supposed to teach five years at least. And now whether that was a rumor or whether I ever read that I don't know. And



my aunt, of course, wanted me to teach. So when I was offered the job to teach, my husband and I decided that we could stand the cut. I think it was about twenty dollars a week or something like that.

DR. CRAWFORD: You both ended up teaching then, didn't you?

MRS. FELLOWS: No! He did not teach. Only I taught. He stayed in with General Electric Company.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now he was in World War II, wasn't he?

MRS. FELLOWS: No, my husband was not in the war. [The] four times that he went up to take his examination he had high blood pressure and they wouldn't take him.

DR. CRAWFORD: What were you doing at Fort Benning? Was that a commissary?

MRS. FELLOWS: I only visited Fort Benning. Russell was there.

DR. CRAWFORD: Oh yes, that's right, of course.

MRS. FELLOWS: He was there for a couple of years I think when he came back from the Korean War. I remember it when he came back.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, that was a good reason to do a little traveling.

MRS. FELLOWS: Well, I enjoyed it.

DR. CRAWFORD: You are located a long ways from Memphis now, you know--about as far as you can be and still be in the United States.

MRS. FELLOWS: In my fiftieth college reunion I was the one that came the furthest to be in the reunion.

DR. CRAWFORD: I could believe it.

MRS. FELLOWS: There was a man from California [and] he just knew that he was the furthest until they called my name and said, no, I was the furthest.

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DR. CRAWFORD: I think you would be because that involves going Northwest whereas going to California involves going West.

MRS. FELLOWS: It's almost straight.

DR. CRAWFORD: I know when you were growing up you heard some things from Belle McWilliams about her early life and her childhood. What do you remember about that and how she became a teacher and what it was like growing up back when she did?

MRS. FELLOWS: I know more of her life after she grew up. She didn't talk too much about life growing up. She told me that her father took her when she was five years old to a hospital to have her eye corrected. There was a big void there though. Really and truly, I can't think of too much that she said of her early childhood--a few things. Her father was a very affectionate, understanding man. She said that never once in her lifetime did her mother show any affection for her or to any of her kids. Her mother was a woman that didn't go out and show her affection and her father was a very affectionate man. Outside of that I just don't know anything about her.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was she born in Memphis?

MRS. FELLOWS: Oh no! She was born up in Pennsylvania. They all came from Pennsylvania. I only have one that was born in Mississippi. All the family was born in Pennsylvania.

DR. CRAWFORD: Ben had told me a little about that. Do you know how old she was when they came here?

MRS. FELLOWS: To Mississippi?

DR. CRAWFORD: Yes.

MRS. FELLOWS: She must have been about twelve years old when she

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22. The Effect of the Diet on the Blood Sugar in the Normal Individual

came to Mississippi.

DR. CRAWFORD: Then they lived there awhile?

MRS. FELLOWS: She might have been a little older than that. I think she went to school there about two years, oh maybe three years. So you see, she must have been a teenager then when she went to school and moved down there.

DR. CRAWFORD: Then she started in Pennsylvania?

MRS. FELLOWS: [She] started in Pennsylvania. Her early schooling was up there.

DR. CRAWFORD: Then he moved to Mississippi and managed a plantation, didn't he?

MRS. FELLOWS: Her father moved to Mississippi and I don't know whether he managed a plantation, but I know that he moved to Mississippi.









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